

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: IREX DELEGATION VISIT TO EXCHANGE GSE
NOMINATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 0888

STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV

USIA FOR IEE

LENINGRAD FOR P&C

1. IREX DELEGATION LED BY DIRECTOR KASSOF EXCHANGED GSE
NOMINATIONS AND DISCUSSED SEVERAL IMPORTANT ISSUES AND DEVELOP-
MENTS ON EXCHANGES WITH COUNTERPARTS IN MINISTRY OF HIGHER
EDUCATION DURING LAST WEEK JANUARY. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT
PLACEMENT TALKS, NEXT STEP FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS, WILL TAKE
PLACE MIDDLE OF APRIL THIS YEAR RATHER THAN IN MAY AS HAS BEEN
CUSTOM IN PAST. THIS YEAR'S TALKS ARE SCHEDULED IN NEW YORK.
KASSOF PERSONALLY INVITED L.B. BAZHANOV, HEAD OF MAIN ADMINISTRATION
FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS OF MINISTRY TO ATTEND NEW YORK TALKS.

2. KASSOF REQUESTED MINISTRY COOPERATION IN CONDUCTING SURVEYS OF
ALL SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN EXCHANGE SINCE AT LEAST TIME IREX HAS
BEEN ADMINISTERING EXCHANGE TO PARALLEL SURVEY OF AMERICAN PARTI-
PANTS. IREX WOULD SUPPLY QUESTIONNAIRES AND MINISTRY AND SOVIET
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SOCIAL SCIENTISTS WOULD ADMINISTER THEM AND SEND RESULTS TO IREX

FOR FINAL PROCESSING. IREX WOULD SUPPLY MINISTRY WITH FINAL PRODUCT OF ENTIRE SURVEY. MAJOR AIM OF PROJECT IS TO DETERMINE TO WHAT EXTENT PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND ADVANCEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN PROMOTED BY EXCHANGE. MINISTRY PROMISED TO GIVE PROJECT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. FYI: KASSOF MILDLY SANGUINE THAT SOVIET HALF OF PROJECT WILL SUCCEED. AT LEAST NOW, HE NOTED, SOVIETS ARE CONSIDERING PROPOSAL WHEREAS FIVE YEARS AGO IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DISMISSED OUT OF HAND. END FYI.

3. AT SAME TIME KASSOF GAVE MINISTRY FINAL RESULTS OF IREX SURVEY OF UNIVERSITIES WHICH HAVE HAD SOVIET EXCHANGEES. SURVEY SHOWED THAT IN THE MAIN UNIVERSITIES FELT SOVIET PARTICIPANTS WELL PREPARED, HAD DONE SERIOUS WORK AND IN SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF CASES SUBSTANTIAL MUTUAL BENEFIT IN FORM OF JOINT PUBLICATIONS AND ENDURING CONTACTS HAD RESULTED. AT SAME TIME SURVEY POINTED UP NEED FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL SOVIET SCHOLARS TO HELP UNIVERSITIES INTELLIGENTLY PLAN SCHOLAR'S ACADEMIC PROGRAM.

4. DURING TWO EXTENSIVE SESSIONS KASSOF AND DELEGATION SPENT WITH FULL SLATE OF MINISTRY OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN PROGRAM, INCLUDING BAZHANOV, KASSOF SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED REMOVAL OF THIRTY RUBLE MONTHLY CHARGE FOR ACCOMPANYING DEPENDENTS OF U.S. STAZHORS RECENTLY IMPOSED BY MHE. KASSOF NOTED THAT GIVEN INELASTICITIES IN IREX BUDGET ADDED COSTS WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM FUNDS NOW DEVOTED EITHER TO PAYING LABORATORY CHARGES FOR SOVIET SCHOLARS, ASSISTING THEIR VISITING DEPENDENTS OR FROM REDUCTION OF RECENT IREX UNILATERAL INCREASE IN SOVIET SCHOLARS' STIPENDS. END RESULT WOULD BE THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE FORCED TO PAY OUT MORE IN DOLLARS THAN THEY WOULD RECEIVE IN RUBLES FROM ADDED ROOM CHARGE. DURING CORDIAL LUNCHEON MARKING FORMAL END OF NEGOTIATIONS BAZHANOV ANNOUNCED THAT ROOM CHARGE WAS BEING WITHDRAWN. HOWEVER, LARGER QUESTION OF ACCEPTABLE ROOM RATES FOR ACCOMPANYING DEPENDENTS OF SENIOR SCHOLARS HOUSED IN UNIVERSITY HOTEL, ALTHOUGH BRIEFLY DISCUSSED, WAS NOT RESOLVED. IT WAS AGREED TO RETURN TO THIS ISSUE DURING APRIL PLACEMENT TALKS IN NEW YORK. FYI: AT EMBASSY ADVICE, KASSOF DID NOT PUSH THIS ISSUE TOO HARD AT THIS TIME BECAUSE MHE INTRANSIGENCE EXPRESSED OVER LAST TWO MONTHS REQUIRES SERIOUS AND DETERMINED RESPONSE WHICH SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND COORDINATED BEFORE HAND.

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5. ON CROWDED LENINGRAD HOUSING CONDITIONS, WE UNDERSTAND IREX ASSESSMENT AFTER VISIT THERE IS THAT WE MUST STRIVE FOR NEGOTIATED WRITTEN AGREEMENT FOR IMPROVED SPACE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, FOLLOWING INITIAL FAILURE AT EXCHANGE TALKS. ON ALL HOUSING POINTS, SOVIETS MORE FIRM AND EVEN RETROGRESSIVE THAN ON ANY OTHER ISSUE AND THEY WOULD NOT CONSIDER AD HOC AGREEMENT AT HIS TIME. KASSOF, WE UNDERSTAND, BELIEVES BEST HOPE IS TO WORK TOWARD IMPROVED SITUATION FOR NEXT FALL, AFTER SOME SOVIET STUDENTS HAVE

BEEN MOVED FROM DORMITORIES TO NEW BUILDING OUTSIDE CITY CENTER.
RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT FOLLOW UP WITH IREX.

6. NEGOTIATIONS CARRIED OUT IN CORDIAL AND BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE
THAT PERMITTED BOTH SIDES TO DISCUSS FREELY AND COME TO AGREEMENTS
ON TOUGH ISSUES WITHOUT RANCOR. THIS ATTRIBUTABLE IN LARGE PART
TO LONG EXPERIENCE EACH SIDE HAS HAD WITH THE OTHER AND DESIRE OF
BOTH TO DEVELOP GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS IN CONTEXT OF PRESENT US-
SOVIET RELATIONS.

7. IREX ALSO MADE COURTESY CALLS ON ACADEMICIAN FEDOSEYEV AND
OTHER OFFICIALS OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND MADE INTRODUCTORY CALL
ON DOLGYKH, DIRECTOR OF MAIN ARCHIVE ADMINISTRATION. DURING THIS
CALL IREX PLEDGED SUPPORT TO HELP REVIVE DORMANT PROPOSAL TO
EXCHANGE DELEGATIONS BETWEEN ARCHIEVE ADMINISTRATION AND ARCHIVAL
LIBRARIES IN U.S.
STOESSEL

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